

HJM 4007 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water

ADOPTED 03/04/2004

1 Beginning on page 1, line 10, strike all material through
2 "Washington." on page 3, line 19 and insert the following:

3 "WHEREAS, Since the birth of this country, our nation owes our coal
4 miners a debt we could never begin to repay for the difficult and
5 dangerous job they perform so we could have the fuel we need to operate
6 our industries and heat our homes; and

7 WHEREAS, The energy needs of communities throughout the nation have
8 been met due to the hard work and dedication of American coal miners;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Millions of workers toiled in the nation's coal mines over
11 the last century, risking both life and limb to fuel the nation's
12 economic expansion, and through their manual labor made possible the
13 technological conveniences of modern American life, though those
14 contributions to the nation's welfare are generally unknown to the
15 public; and

16 WHEREAS, During the last century, over 100,000 coal miners have
17 been killed in mining accidents in the nation's coal mines, and
18 3,500,000 coal miners have suffered nonfatal injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, 100,000 coal miners have contracted Black Lung Disease as
20 a direct result of their toil in the nation's coal mines; and

21 WHEREAS, Coal provides 50 percent of the nation's electricity and
22 is an essential fuel for industries such as steel, cement, chemical,
23 food, and paper; and

24 WHEREAS, Coal miners keep the nation supplied with an energy
25 resource that produces electricity for the lowest cost, when compared
26 to fuels other than nuclear, and which makes possible the country's
27 unmatched productivity and prosperity; and

28 WHEREAS, Coal miners provide a vital pool of labor with the
29 expertise to produce energy supplies from vast national coal reserves,
30 which serves to buffer the country from a dangerous dependence on
31 foreign energy fuels; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States has a demonstrated coal reserve of more
2 than 500,000,000,000 tons, with an estimated 275,000,000,000 tons of
3 recoverable reserves which, at current production rates, represents
4 about 275 years of recoverable coal reserves; and

5 WHEREAS, These coal reserves represent about 95 percent of all
6 fossil fuel reserves in the United States, about one-fourth of the
7 world's known coal reserves; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of all coal mined in the United
9 States is transported by rail, making coal the largest single source of
10 freight revenue for United States' railroads; and

11 WHEREAS, Transportation by railroad provided jobs for thousands of
12 workers who built the infrastructure, maintained it, and loaded and
13 unloaded coal; and

14 WHEREAS, It would be proper and fitting for our nation to recognize
15 our coal miners, both past and present, for their contributions to this
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Coal mining continues to be the economic engine for many
18 communities, providing jobs to areas with little economic diversity;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Coal mining provides an economic benefit far beyond its
21 direct revenue, including billions of dollars in economic output and
22 household earnings and hundreds of thousands of jobs in other
23 industries;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
25 States Postal service issue a postage stamp commemorating American coal
26 miners, which would hold the promise of illustrating a colorful and
27 historically rich segment of society for the benefit of school
28 children, stamp collectors, educators, and the public.

29 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
30 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
31 States, the United States Postmaster General, the Citizens' Stamp
32 Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service, the President
33 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
35 Washington."

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